MR. CHAIRMAN: There are not enough seats to cater for those for whom they were created. Would you do something about it, by increasing the staff or something.

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: You are perfectly right, Sir. In addition, she said, there are others. For example, she referred to the children of staff who work for Parliament. and so on. She wanted aditional seats for...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You don't consider those who work for Parliament as Central Government employees? (*Interruptions*).

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Yes Sir, but they are not transferable.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Many State Government and Union Territory Government employees are sent on deputation to Central Services. Will the children of such employees who are on deputation to Central Services get the benefit of admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas?

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: In general it is for Central Government employees. But, as you have asked if there are officers who are with the Central Government on deputation or transfer, their children will also be considered.

डा० बाप कालदाते : सभापति जी, जो पब्लिक स्कूल हैं, जो कान्वेंट स्कूल हैं जो सी०बी०एस०ई० से एफिलियेटेड हैं इसके संदर्भ में मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि केन्द्रीय विद्यालयों के जो 12वीं क्लास के साइंस के विद्यार्थी हैं उनको जो असुविधायें होती हैं —

—as between the 12th class students of the Kendriya Vidyalayas and the students of the convent schools and public schools which are affiliated to the CBSE—

तो उन असुविधाओं को दूर करने के लिए कुछ कदम उठाने की सिफारिश रिव्यू कमेटी के अगर की है तो उन सिफारिशों के बारे में कौन से कदम आपने उठाये हैं ?

PROF. M. G. K. MENON: The Review Committee has essentially gone into the functioning and working of the Kendriya Vidyalayas themselves, and from the point of view of a variety of aspects. I have got the details here, but I won't go into them. But the question of comparing them and their functioning with other schools which are operational such as convents and other public schools, has not arisen. There have been certain aspects relating to the examination system, and this was referred to in the House earlier in terms of the non-availability of textbooks in time and so on and the disadvantage that KVS children have been placed on this account. That has been answered on an earlier occasion and, in particular, about the second phase of the science books available only in late October-November for the examination this March.

Colour picture tube project by the A.P. Electronics Development Corporation

*203. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a colour picture tube project by the A.P. Electronics Development Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) A composite proposal for expansion of capacity and foreign collaboration from M|s. Andhra Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation (APEDC) for manufacture of Colour Picture Tubes was not accepted by the Government of India vide their letter dated 14-10-88. M|s. APEDC represented against the decision vide their letter dated

9-12-88. Meanwhile, the collaborator of M/s. APEDC, namely, M/s. Philips, Holland have informed that they have withdrawn their offer of collaboration with M/s. APEDC and have terminated all its past arrangements with APEDC for technology transfer for manufacture of colour picture tubes.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: The letter of intent possessed by the AP Electronics Corporation is as old as 16th June 1983 and the projected cost of the unit was about Rs. 150 crores. The Electronics Commission had also given its approval during August/September 1988. Several meetings of several committees took place for the finalisation of the project between 1985 and 1987. The honourable Minister said on 14th October 1988 the proposal was rejected by the Government of India. How was it that this proposal was rejected while several other proposals were cleared by the Government of India including one in Ghaziabad, one in Chandigarh and a third in Ranchi in Bihar? What were the extraneous factors that weighed with the Government in clearing these proposals and in not accepting the proposal from Andhra Pradesh? And it appears that M/s. Philips of Holland has been pressurising the Government of India to enter into an agreement on their proposal which would rather be prejudicial to the earlier proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. So the clarification I want to ask for is how all these things could happen, what went wrong with the proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh in spite of the approval of various committees as well as the Electronics Commission.

PROF. M. G. K. MENON: Sir, the hon. Member has given an account of the developments relating to the application from the Andhra Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation. They were certainly issued a Letter of Intent in June, 1983. However, their application for composite clearance for expansion of capacity and approval of foreign collboration which was initially registered as an industrial licence application was in the early part of 1986, specifically in February, 1986 and April, 1986. This has been examined in great detail. It was felt by the Cabinet Committee which looked at it, that what would be desirable in the case of manufacture of an item such as this which is colour picture tubes for television sets, which involves heavy investments, is expansion of existing units, in order to use the already made investments rather than in setting up new units. That was the decision taken at the earlier stage. So, that is the answer to his specific question. The second point raised by the hon. Member is about the collaboration with Philips of Holland, and a feeling that Government has in some sense tried to interfere and asked M/s. Philips not to go into collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation. To the extent of my knowledge this is not true. As far as Government is concerned, it has had nothing to do with agreement or arrangements between the foreign collaborator and APEDC. It was a decision of the collaborator to withdraw on their own. That is the answer to the second point.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Sir, the proposal was rejected by the Minister of Industries, and the Minister of Industries was Mr. J. Vengal Rao from Andhra Pradesh. Sir, as you know, Mr. K. Vijaya Baskara Reddy was the Minister of Surface Transport during 1983 when the foundation was laid for the Kanakadurgamma Varadhi at Vijayawada when you were the hon. Governor of Andhra Pradesh. Then, there was a proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the construction of a four-lane bridge on the Kanakadurgamma Varadhi. The then outgoing Chief Minister who happened to be the Minister of Surface Transport at the Centre cut down purposefully these four lanes to two lanes. Was it with a vengeance towards the people of Andhra Pradesh, the Minister hailing from Andhra Pradesh, whether it was Mr. J. Vengal Rao or Mr. K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy were acting detrimental to the interests of Andhra Pradesh by...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is two-line, four-lane? Is there four-line, two-line colour tube?

AN HON. MEMBER : That is a fact, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But are they political decisions two-line and four-line colour tubes ?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY It was not done on merit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not know much about it. Are there two-line, four-line colour tubes ?

(*Interruptions*)

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: The original proposal was...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : You say the Government headed by so and so.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Sir, the original proposal was to construct a four-lane bridge on Kanakadu-gamma Varadhi which was cut down to two lanes by the then Surface Transport Minister, Mr. K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, who hailed from Andhra Pradesh. As far as the...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you have colour tubes with six lines ?

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Four lanes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Four-line colour tubes ?

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Not colour tubes, but Kanakadurgamma Varadhi. About the ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : What is this, Sir ? (*Interruptions*)

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Hon. Chairman could understand this. .

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : He is not able to understand.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: ... and I do not expect you to understand ...(*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER : The Chairman must understand it.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : The Chairman understood it. He was the Governor of Andhra Pradesh at that time when four-lane bridge was reduced to two lanes. So, as far as this colour picture tube was concerned, was there any political consideration during that time when Mr. Vengal Rao was the Minister of Industries that as a revenge towards the people of Andhra Pradesh for not voting for the Congress, that they voted down this colour picture tube project in Andhra Pradesh ? And was there any letter from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh recently to the hon. Prime Minister to reconsider and re-open the issue again ? And if so, what steps have been taken by the present Government to re-open or to review this proposal ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Was there any political consideration earlier for not agreeing, and will there be any political consideration for your agreeing now? (*Interruptions*) That was the question.

PROF. M. G. K. MENON : Sir, with regard to political considerations of the previous Government, I would not be able to deal with the question But there is a letter from the Hon. Minister of Andhra Pradesh to the Hon Prime Minister which has been...

AN HON. MEMBER : Now?

PROF M.G.K. MENON: Yes, now. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, would you educate the Minister to address the Chair and not the people at the back.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will give due consideration to it.

PROF. M. G. K. MENON: Sir there is a letter from the hon. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, what is this going on from behind?

Can you control that? I am not hearing what he is saying. (*Interruptions*). This has become a permanent business.

PROF. M. G. K. MENON: May, I answer the point raised by the Hon. Member? There is a letter dated March 12 from the Hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh concerning this question. As far as this particular application is concerned, it is for the APEDC (Andhra Pradesh Electronic Development Corporation) to bring the project back for consideration but as far as the collaborator is concerned, M/s. Philips were their earlier collaborators and they have indicated to them clearly that they have withdrawn. So, it is for APEDC to bring the case afresh when it will be considered on merits Thank you.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Philips have given any reason for terminating the collaboration proposal. And another thing, what Mr. Sivaji says is not correct. I know personally that J. Vengal Rao had invited one Gujarati industrialist to put up industry in Andhra Pradesh and he has succeeded in it. Now, what was the reason given by the collaborator for withdrawing the collaboration offer?

PROF. M. G. K. MENON: Sir, the agreement was between an Indian party and foreign party for collaboration, and it is entirely for the foreign party to say whether they wish or they do not wish to continue with the arrangements which have been entered into. All that I know is that M/s. Philips of Holland have clearly indicated that they are no longer interested in the proposal with the APEDC.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, this is a very serious matter. I am totally dissatisfied with this reply. (*Interruptions*). Dr. Sivaji of course put some supplementaries. But what I want to know, you will kindly bear with me is that he says that in 1983 there was a proposal ad nthe Government rejected in October, 1988 etc. Meanwhile, the collaborator of APEDC, namely the Philips have informed that they have withdrawn their offer of collaboration. But whom have the Philips informed? They are the collaborators of APEDC. Have the Philips informed the Government directly? There is no such procedure. This itself shows something fishy in the whole matter. How the projects of Andhra and Bengal have been handled in the last five years is part of the political history of this country. I do not want to deal with this argument and that argument from the other side. Now I would request the hon. Members from the other side that since they have their Government in Andhra Pradesh, they should have a vested interest to get these projects cleared. Of course, we have a vested interest because we know we are coming back to power in Andhra Pradesh. But they should also be interested in getting these projects through.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Are you going to topple the Andhra Pradesh Ministry also? You have already toppled the Ministry in Goa.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Very shortly, very shortly.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Has George Fernandes gone to Andhra Pradesh to topple the Ministry there? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Your manipulations will not be tolerated in Andhra Pradesh. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, I want to know what is the source of information of the Minister that Philips of Holland have withdrawn their collaboration offer. This is a very serious matter.

PROF. M. G. K. MENON: Sir, may I answer that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know how did you come to know that they have withdrawn.

PROF. M. G. K. MENON: Sir, may I answer that? The position is that another company had intimated that they are putting in a proposal for manufacture of colour picture tubes in collaboration with M/s. Philips. But there was this earlier proposal that Messrs. Philips would enter into collaboration with the APEDC for this item. Therefore, it was important for Government to know whether Messrs. Philips were going in for multiple collaborations with different companies. That is why, Messrs. Philips were asked a simple question concerning their collaboration with the APEDC. Messrs. Philips sent a message back saying that they had informed the APEDC that their collaboration with them stood no longer and that, therefore, they were free to proceed with other collaborations. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, he says that another company has applied. Here, the Government writes to Messrs. Philips! There is no such procedure. I am now charging the Government. The other company must be a private sector company. They must be interested in this proposal. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: There should be an enquiry into it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: There must be an enquiry into it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHARY: There is no such practice. (*Interruptions*) When did they write to Messrs. Philips for collaboration? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: The Government of Indai starts corresponding with private parties abroad! (*Interruptions*) The Government asks them—Is it correct that you have entered into collaboration with the APEDC, or, is it with a private party? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: This is the most unusual procedure. (*Interruptions*) This is the first scandal of the National Front Government.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Government is a continuing entity. Prof. Menon has very ably defended whatever has been done. But I do not think it is correct. This should be enquired into fully and Government must come out with the details. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, the Prime Minister should give an assurance that this matter will be enquired into and Parliament satisfied. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. G. K. MENON: Sir, may I clarify the issue? All of what I have said was done last year and not by the present Government. I have already mentioned that there is a letter from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to the Prime Minister in March this year, and, therefore, we will re-examine the whole case. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, what they want to know is, is the other company with which they are collaborating a private company? Secondly, is it the procedure that you write to the collaborators directly to find out? This is all they want to know. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: That is more important. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. G. K. MENON: It is a private company. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Name?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: We want to know the name of the company. And, secondly, is it the procedure, as the Chairman had put it?

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: It is a kickback procedure. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. G. K. MENON: Sir, I will have to search the papers to find out the details and I will get back. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: He should have come prepared with all the details (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. G. K. MENON: Sir, it is Videocon .(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: As I said, it is a private company. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The second question is, is it the normal procedure that you write to the collaborators to find out, as, you say, it was done in this case? (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. G. K. MENON: I will have this looked into.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will have this looked into (*Interruptions*) Question No. 204.

Negotiations with a French firm regarding Light Combat Aircraft

204. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:†
KUMARI ALIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state·

(a) what is the total amount of oney spent so far on the Light Combat Aircraft Project; and

(b) whether it is a fact that negotiations are going on with a French firm for a major collaboration in the Light Combat Aircraft project and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) A sum of Rs. 273 crores has been spent so far on the Light Combat Aircraft Project.

(b) No negotiations are going on with a French firm for a major collaboration. However, negotiations are in progress with one French firm for availing technical consultancy and procuring certain sub-systems/components. It is not in public interest to disclose the details of such negotiations before they are concluded.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kapil Verma.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: This prestigious project...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Why are they not disclosing the details? They are saying that it is an open Government, nothing is to be hidden.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you do not want defence things to be opened up.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Now they are telling that they are not disclosing. This is the Government which says that it is for the people of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But it comes under defence category.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Was not Bofors coming under defence category?

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: On Bofors they wanted to know everything. Why can't they give details now? Why do they want to keep back the details in this case?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY. It is only the details of negotiations that we want.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Sir, I think the answer has not been clearly understood. May I read out the last para again? It is said: "It is not in public interest to disclose the details of such negotiations before they are concluded." We do not even know whether these things are going through. At this stage we cannot disclose them. When the things come up...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will you disclose them later on?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Who is conducting the negotiations, Mr. Arun Nehru or the Minister concerned?

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, the Minister is taking shelter behind public interest but here I have excerpts from